

Dep

THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE BROOKLYN LIBRARY.

PRESENTED MARCH 29, 1883.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
PRINTED FOR THE LIBRARY.
1883.

OFFICERS, 1882-83.

President,
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WHITE.

Vice-President,
ALFRED C. BARNES.

Secretaries,
Corresponding,
CHARLES F. ADAMS.

Recording,
S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR.

Treasurer,
JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.

Board of Directors,

(Term Expires, April, 1883.)
JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM.
W. C. DUNTON.
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.
GEORGE L. NICHOLS.
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WHITE.

(Term Expires, April, 1884.)
S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR.
JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.
CHARLES F. ADAMS.
ALFRED C. BARNES.
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

(Term Expires, April, 1885.)
EDMUND W. CORLIES.
S. B. DURYEA.
ALEXANDER E. ORR.
WILLIAM B. KENDALL.
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

Librarian,
STEPHEN B. NOYES.

Asst. Librarian,
W. A. BARDWELL.

Executive Committees of the Board.

Library Committee,
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN. JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.
ALEXANDER E. ORR.

Lecture Committee,
S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR. SAMUEL B. DURYEA.
CHARLES F. ADAMS.

Committee on Buildings,
WILLIAM B. KENDALL. EDMUND W. CORLIES.
GEORGE L. NICHOLS.

Committee on Classes.
JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM. FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.
SAMUEL B. DURYEA.

Committee on Membership.
ALFRED C. BARNES. JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.
W. C. DUNTON.

Committee on Ways and Means,
ALEXANDER E. ORR. WILLIAM B. KENDALL.
EDMUND W. CORLIES.

OFFICERS, 1883-84.

President,
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WHITE.

Vice-President,
ALFRED C. BARNES.

Secretaries.

Corresponding,
CHARLES F. ADAMS.

Recording,
S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR.

Treasurer,

JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.

Board of Directors.

(Term Expires, April, 1884.)
S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR.
JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.
CHARLES F. ADAMS.
ALFRED C. BARNES.
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

(Term Expires, April, 1885.)
EDMUND W. CORLIES.
S. B. DURYEA.
ALEXANDER E. ORR.
WILLIAM B. KENDALL.
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

(Term Expires, April, 1886.)
WILLIAM H. NICHOLS.
THEODORE F. JACKSON.
JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.
GEORGE L. NICHOLS.
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WHITE.

Librarian,

STEPHEN B. NOYES.

1st Asst. Librarian,
W. A. BARDWELL.

2d Asst. Librarian.
CHARLES A. HORN.

Executive Committees of the Board.

Library Committee,

ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN. JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.
CHARLES F. ADAMS.

Lecture Committee,

ALFRED C. BARNES. JAMES L. MORGAN, JR.
WILLIAM H. NICHOLS.

Committee on Buildings,

WILLIAM B. KENDALL. EDMUND W. CORLIES.
FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

Committee on Classes,

S. B. CHITTENDEN, JR. SAMUEL B. DURYEA.
CHARLES F. ADAMS.

Committee on Membership,

GEORGE L. NICHOLS. THEODORE F. JACKSON.
ALFRED C. BARNES.

Committee on Ways and Means.

FRANKLIN WOODRUFF. ALEXANDER E. ORR.
E. W. CORLIES.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
BROOKLYN LIBRARY.

THOMAS T. BUCKLEY.

JOHN T. MARTIN.

JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.

ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

PETER C. CORNELL.

JAMES P. WALLACE.

FRANKLIN WOODRUFF.

EX-OFFICIO.

WM. AUG. WHITE, PRES. B. L.

JAS. L. MORGAN, JR., TREAS. B. L.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD, 1883-84.

PRESIDENT.

THOMAS T. BUCKLEY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

(Vacancy.)

SECRETARY.

ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN.

TREASURER.

JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

—••—

To the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Library :

The Trustees submit the following report of the finances of the Library for the current year, ending February 28, 1883 :

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Cr. Balance, February 28, 1881.....		\$	222	96
Endowment Fund Subscription, Collections			75,425	00
Bequest of Mrs. Maria Cary.....			5,000	00
General Fund Subscription.....			100	00
Interest			79	08
Catalogue sales.....			410	07
Gross income from Library Building.....			100	00
Gross income from 193 Montague street.....			3,577	48
“ “ 201 “			3,463	33
				<hr/>
			\$88,377	92
Dr. Debt to Brooklyn Trust Company, paid.....	\$9,131	24		
Mortgages paid off on 193 and 201 Montague st... 50,000	00			
Interest on Mortgages.....	1,808	19		
General expense account, (items given below)....	299	14		
Expense account, No. 193 Montague street.....	306	19		
“ “ “ 201 Montague street.....	259	03		
Catalogue account.....	623	26		
Investment account.....	600	00		
Payments to Board of Directors, viz.				
Income of White Fund.....	937	50		
“ Martin Fund.....	225	00		
“ General Fund.....	3,233	05		
Appropriation for Books.....	\$5,995	29		
“ for Building and Fixtures 4,647	17			
			<hr/>	
			\$10,642	46
				<hr/>
			\$78,065	06
				<hr/>
Balance, February 28, 1883.....			\$10,312	86

THE ITEMS OF GENERAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT ARE AS FOLLOWS :

Department of City Works, water rates and meter water.....	\$149	54
American Bank Note Company, New Certificates.....	40	10
Engrossing and copying	109	50
		<hr/>
	\$299	14

THE NET INCOME OF THE OFFICE BUILDINGS IS AS FOLLOWS :

Income account No. 193 Montague St., gross rentals collected.....		\$3,577 48
Less Interest on Mortgages.....	\$842 79	
Gas.....	34 20	
Repairs.....	182 56	
Commission.....	89 43	1,148 98
Balance net income.....		<u>\$2,428 50</u>
Income account No. 201 Montague St., gross rentals collected.....		\$3,463 33
Less Interest on Mortgages.....	\$965 40	
Gas.....	38 20	
Repairs.....	134 25	
Commission.....	86 58	1,224 43
Balance net income.....		<u>\$2,238 90</u>

A considerable portion of the foregoing rentals represents arrears collected in full. The present rent roll is \$6,190, and includes the entire available office property of the Library. There are no vacant offices, and no arrears of present tenants. The rent of rooms in the Library Building proper has yielded \$100, as elsewhere appears :

THE GENERAL INCOME ACCOUNT STANDS AS FOLLOWS :

Dr. Balance, February 28, 1882.....	\$1,146 29	
General expenses, as per statement.....	299 14	
Payments to Jas. L. Morgan, Jr., Treasurer, viz.:		
For Income of Special Funds.....	1,162 50	
For Income of General Funds.....	3,233 05	
		<u>\$5,840 98</u>
Cr. Balance Income Account No. 193 Montague St....	\$2,428 50	
" " " " 201 Montague St....	2,238 90	
" " Library Building.....	100 00	
Interest allowed on deposit.....	79 08	4,846 48
Dr. Balance, February 28, 1883.....		<u>\$994 50</u>

NOTE—The above balance represents the premium of insurance paid in advance for three years to March 1, 1886, on the property of the Library.

In the early summer of 1882 the conditions making binding subscriptions to the Permanent Endowment Fund having been satisfied, the Trustees began to receive collections of the same, which have been continued to the present time, and now keep pace with the still advancing subscription. The total collections on this account, to date, amount to \$75,425, from which the following payments and appropriations have been made, pursuant

to the conditions of the subscription and the resolutions of the Board of Directors, viz. :

For payment of debt and interest to Brooklyn Trust Co.....	\$9,131 24
“ purchase of books.....	5,995 29
“ renovation of building and fixtures.....	4,647 17
“ repayment of advances on Catalogue account.....	1,843 94
“ transfer to capital account of White Fund	25,000 00
“ “ “ “ Martin Fund.....	10,000 00
Total.....	\$56,617 64

The balance of the subscription will be hereafter applied to the further purchase of books and renovation of buildings, and to the enlargement of general or special funds of the Library as may be ordered.

The Trustees have also to note the receipt of the sum of \$5,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. Maria Cary, which has been set apart, pursuant to the wishes of the testatrix and the resolution of the Directors, as a special fund, entitled “Cary Bequest.” The receipt of these considerable sums for the permanent endowment of the Library, has provided the means of paying off the mortgage indebtedness of the corporation, which has been done, and the real estate of the Library is, therefore, entirely free from incumbrance. It has also been considered expedient, with the concurrence of the Directors, to close the account, which has been running for some years in connection with the publication of the Catalogue. Further payments on this account of \$623.26 were made during the year, in full of the cost of a second edition, and the sum of \$410.07 was received from sales. The outstanding balance of the account, viz., \$1,843.94, was then charged against the Endowment Fund Subscription as before stated. The unsold volumes (593) are now in the hands of the Directors. The entire cost of the two editions has been \$11,768.03, and the amount received from various sources towards defraying this charge, \$9,924.09, including proceeds of sale, \$4,566.27.

The General Fund of the Library shows an increase of \$100, being the amount of a single life membership so applied.

The Investment account represents the value of one income bond of \$1,000 of the Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railway Company, given to the Library and included as part of the Endowment Fund Subscription.

THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE TRUSTEES IS AS FOLLOWS :

Cash	\$10,312 86	
Investment account.....	600 00	
Real estate, No. 193 Montague street.....	37,000 00	
“ Library	151,863 45	
“ No. 201 Montague street.....	32,814 76	
Furniture and Fixtures.....	11,087 89	
General Income Account.....	994 50	
Building Fund.....		\$169,161 00
Book “		587 50
General “		15,117 60
Endowment Fund Subscription.....		18,807 36
Art Fund.....		1,000 00
White Fund		25,000 00
Martin Fund.....		10,000 00
Cary Bequest.....		5,000 00
	<u>\$244,673 46</u>	<u>\$244,673 46</u>

The insurances upon the Library property are under time policies running to March 1, 1886, and remain unchanged, as follows :

On Library building	\$80,000 00
“ Books.....	70,000 00
“ Furniture and Fixtures	7,500 00
“ No. 193 Montague street.....	20,000 00
“ No. 201 Montague street.....	20,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$197,500 00</u>

Which is respectfully presented, by order and on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

JAMES H. FROTHINGHAM,

Treasurer of Trustees.

BROOKLYN, March 8, 1883.

Examined and found correct,

JAMES P. WALLACE, }
ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN. } *Examining Committee.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR. JAMES L. MORGAN, JR., Treasurer. In Account with THE BROOKLYN LIBRARY. CR.

Balance on hand March 25, 1882	\$1,579 95	Salaries.....	\$8,236 60
Initiation Fees.....	1,018 00	Books.....	6,099 26
Dues, Fines, Extra Books, etc.....	9,831 06	Newspapers and Periodicals.....	1,308 88
Total Receipts from Membership.....	10,849 06	Binding..	558 61
Trustees' Account, Income—Martin Fund.....	225 00	Stationery and Postage.....	503 87
“ “ White “	937 50	Lighting and Fuel.....	1,958 16
“ “ General “	3,233 05	Building and Fixtures.....	4,134 39
“ for Books and Building Repairs..	10,642 46	Bulletins and advertising.....	502 54
	15,038 01	Janitor and Care of Building.....	1,560 64
Classes	310 08	Incidentals—Interest.....	\$270 00
Old Books, Periodicals, etc., sold.....	44 05	“ Expenses of Branches	156 00
Catalogues and Bulletins (exclusive of Trustees' Account).....	37 15	“ Sundry Current Expenses.....	402 98
Trustees of Cary Fund	350 25	Receipts Endowment Fund, 1881, p'd Trustees.	2,000 00
Sundries (interest \$16.00).....	16 13	Balance March 27, 1883.....	532 75
	\$28,224 68		\$28,224 68

E. & O. E. BROOKLYN, March 27, 1883. JAS. L. MORGAN, JR., Treasurer.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Brooklyn Library was held at the Library, on the evening of Thursday, March 29th, 1883, in the Ladies' Reading Room. The President, Mr. Wm. Augustus White, being absent on account of sickness, the Vice-President, Gen. A. C. Barnes, called the meeting to order, and on motion Mr. Geo. C. White, Jr., was chosen Secretary *pro tem*.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Mr. James L. Morgan, Jr., being also absent, his annual report was presented and read by Mr. J. H. Frothingham, and on motion accepted.

General Barnes then read the Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

On motion of Mr. Van Sinderen it was ordered that the Report be received, and that 1,500 copies be printed for the use of members.

Mr. Frothingham submitted a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Library, the same having been duly posted on the Bulletin, as follows :

AMEND ART. II., SEC. I., TO READ AS FOLLOWS :

Any person of the age of fourteen years, or upwards, may become a member of the Library, if approved by the Board of Directors, on subscribing the Constitution and paying five dollars per annum in advance, or an initiation fee of one dollar, and two dollars in addition thereto for the first six months ; the further regular dues shall be for the remaining six months of the first year, two dollars, and thereafter five dollars per annum, payable semi-annually in advance. Any member shall be entitled, by paying three dollars per annum in advance, in addition to the regular dues, to draw an additional set of books for each such additional payment.

On his motion the amendment was unanimously adopted.

Before the meeting adjourned, several gentlemen spoke eloquently in reference to the great importance of a more adequate endowment of the Library for the purchase of books.

General Barnes thought that it would only be necessary for it to be known that the Library was poor and in need of funds for assistance to be forthcoming. Such assistance could not be considered merely charity, but decent self-respect. The duty of sustaining such an institution as this falls on a few, and the Library has experienced the noble liberality of this class. After many years of financial independence the Library feels that to fill its full measure of usefulness it must appeal to its friends for substantial aid.

Rev. Dr. Thomas said that he felt a personal interest in the institution, as he was one of those who had largely profited by it. Its value is a growing value. There is special reason for its becoming of more consequence to-day. The flood

of publications is so extensive and the wealth of research so great that no man but a millionaire can keep pace with this progress. There are special advantages in such a well-chosen and well-managed library. The amount of ephemeral literature is enormous. Like dynamite, however, the press may be used for bad as well as good purposes. Children on their way to school see notices on the fences which in Athens would have expatriated the man who placed them there. The cheap press, the news-stands, and smaller book-stores, are largely infected with such literature. Such Libraries as this are of great public benefit. This institution has something to do with future generations. The speaker spoke of the great aid the Catalogue had been to students, and of the testimony of librarians of our leading colleges to its usefulness. He regretted that there was such a painful lack of expenditure for books in this community. It has expended \$15,000,000 on a bridge and not half a million to get the young people transported to the coming century. It is not enough that this institution has been able to sustain itself so far. It occupies a most favorable location, where there is a natural focalizing of the population. It has no rival institutions. It stands alone and unique, without a competitor, and should, therefore, concentrate assistance. The building is admirably provided with appliances for work, and to leave the Library at the present time crippled would be absolutely suicidal. Brooklyn being a city of homes, should also be a city of literature and study ; it should be amply supplied with all that it needs to guide, instruct, and inspire its youth.

Mr. Rossiter W. Raymond spoke in a general way of books and their various uses. A book is simply a man with one thing to say. When books were scarce no one could afford to own all he wanted. Now they have become so numerous that no one, not even a millionaire, can afford to get all he wants. Even the Astor Library is not complete in any given field. One is now satisfied if he knows the men who knew the facts, without knowing the facts himself. The library of the educated man should consist of as many working tools as possible—the classics, the various books, and as many encyclopædias, dictionaries, and circulars as possible. The Catalogue of the Brooklyn Library was a model of literary work, and, as has been well said, almost a perfect realization of an impossibility. For his own part he thought more of the Catalogue than he did of any other volume in the entire Library. To a reading man the Catalogue was invaluable, and he would consider no library—no private library of any considerable extent—perfect without it. Without it the library would be a mockery to the mass of readers. As a student he wished to express his gratitude to the Brooklyn Library. All his thinking and active life was associated with it. Brooklyn is a city of homes and has only a few things to unite it as a people, among which may be mentioned the Park, the Bridge, Ridgewood, and this Library. The distinguished merit of the Catalogue had not escaped the notice of the compilers of the elaborate article upon Libraries in the latest edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Mr. Andrew McLean also made a few remarks. He said it was a great pleasure to him to have it in his power to stimulate fresh interest in the Brooklyn Library. For many years he has profited by this institution and has seen in a practical way how much good it was accomplishing. All that Mr. Raymond had said of the Librarian and the Catalogue he had found true in his own experience. He could conceive of no institution more admirably managed for intelligent men,

and he believed that what had been already accomplished was only a promise of larger things to come. He believed with the Mayor that the Brooklyn Library will yet run into a public library. He did not approve of several small libraries. The Historical Society and this Library will meet all the demands of Brooklyn for the next fifty years to come, or for all time. This Association, he felt assured, would not be cramped for lack of money. Its wants have only to be made known to be supplied. Ample support and stimulation will be received. Not merely generosity but ambition will induce rich men to come forward to its aid. He could not conceive of any cause which has more to commend it than that of this institution. No man can be beggared or lose his self-respect through philanthropy of this kind.

The meeting then adjourned.

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Brooklyn Library :

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Library the Board of Directors herewith submit their Twenty-fifth Annual Report, and perhaps the fact that this report completes the record of a quarter of a century's work will excuse its opening with a brief historical retrospect.

The first annual report of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library Association was submitted on the 13th January, 1859. We learn from it that a public meeting was held on the 30th November, 1857, over which James P. Wallace, who is still one of our Trustees, presided, at which a preamble and resolutions were adopted substantially embodying the Constitution of the Association as finally adopted.

On the 23d December, 1857, the first Board of Directors was chosen.

In their report the Directors say : " Our aim has been first to establish a circulating library for use at the homes of members, of a high character, which shall represent, as far as possible, the great departments of human thought and inquiry, as far as they can be pursued by the general reader ; and second, to establish a library of reference, consisting of cyclopædias, gazetteers, maps, transactions of learned societies, and special treatises in the different departments of literature, art, and science. We confidently hope that some of the Astors of our city will yet furnish the Association with a fund which will in a few years give us a library of circulation and reference worthy of the population and intelligence of Brooklyn. That a city of over 200,000 inhabitants should be without a great library is disgraceful in the extreme."

Mr. A. A. Low in the course of his remarks at the meeting, said : " The time has come when to support our preten-

sions to the character as well as to the size of a great city, we must acquire the attributes of a great city; and no one, high or low in station, may claim to be honored and respected as a citizen of Brooklyn—who fails to recognize his responsibilities as a citizen—who, according to his ability, does not help on every good object. This institution has been established for the purpose of supplying our citizens with the amplest information in every department of knowledge; but, I would hope, especially in all that relates to commerce, biography, and history; so that our young men may grow up to be good merchants, good citizens, good legislators and good statesmen: finding, if need be, in the record of the past, that foundation on which all true greatness, personal or national, rests, virtue and honor. In due time this Association will exert a mighty influence upon the thought and heart of the community, stimulating and guiding it to a higher and better progress, until Brooklyn shall become glorious as ‘a city set on a hill, whose light shall not be hid.’”

It is evident that the foundations of the Library were laid on a large plan, yet we trust that the Library has accomplished, if not all, at least an important part of what was expected of it.

The Treasurer’s report for the same year shows receipts:

From annual members.....	\$5,373 00
From lectures.....	1,345 00
Donations	915 00
Life members.....	6,100 00
Total.....	<u>\$13,733 00</u>
And expenditure for books.....	\$8,393 00

We may be sure that this outlay for books was judiciously made, as the report of the Directors records their appreciation of “the labors of their intelligent and faithful Librarian, Mr. S. B. Noyes.” With the exception of three years, from 1866 to 1869, when he was tempted away to the Library of Congress at Washington, Mr. Noyes has been with us ever since, doing the best he could with the limited means at his

disposal. The selection and building up of this Library is almost solely his work.

When the war broke out the libraries of the country felt its force severely, and for two years little progress was made. Two members of the Board of Directors, who resigned at that time in order to enlist, died in the service of their country, and some memorial tablet on the walls of this Library might fitly commemorate the names of Henry W. Merian and Henry H. Alden. In 1863 a more hopeful feeling prevailed, and the site where our Library is now located was under consideration for purchase, the cost of lots and building being estimated in the fifth annual report as only \$60,000.

In 1865 these lots on Montague street were bought; a subscription for a building fund was started, and reached to the amount of \$105,000. A year later \$20,000 additional had been subscribed, and it was stated that the income on \$200,000 more would be needed to buy books and pay running expenses.

In 1870 the present library building was completed at an expense in round figures of.....	\$150,000 00
And the cost of the adjacent office buildings was,	
No. 193 Montague street.....	37,000 00
No. 201 Montague street.....	33,000 00

There were \$25,000 mortgages on each of the office buildings, but none on the Library building proper.

After obtaining a building, the necessity for filling its shelves with a suitable collection of books was evident, and a subscription of \$50,000 was raised, of which \$20,000 was given by the Hon. S. B. Chittenden, the whole to be spent directly in the purchase of books. The expenditure of this sum lasted till 1876, and during that time the Library increased in size from 21,000 volumes to 53,000 volumes, and the title of the institution was changed by act of the Legislature to "The Brooklyn Library." During the next five years the purchases were at the rate of only 1,000 volumes yearly, many necessary books had to be left unpurchased, and this state of arrested development naturally caused a good deal of dissatisfaction among all using the Library, and there

was a falling off in the five years of twenty per cent. in its annual membership. To pay for such books as were purchased during this time, and to complete the publication of the catalogue (work on which was begun in 1874), the Directors were obliged to incur a debt of about \$10,000. The catalogue has cost, net, \$7,000, beyond the receipts for sales, but it was essential to the intelligent use of the Library, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that the work was thoroughly well done, and that it ranks high as a book of reference wherever the English language is spoken.

Impressed, therefore, with the absolute necessity of keeping the growth of the Library steady and harmonious, the Board of Directors have labored now for over a year past to bring before the people of Brooklyn the wants and necessities of our institution and the opportunities it offers for public usefulness. Their labors have met with partial success, and a subscription list, amounting at present to about \$86,000, has, according to its terms, enabled us to pay off our floating debt of about \$10,000; to pay off the mortgages on the two office buildings of \$50,000; to devote to the purchase of books and repair of Library building, \$10,000; and for the same purposes during the current year there will be further expended about \$10,000.

We have further on hand, awaiting secure investment in bond and mortgage on Brooklyn property, about \$10,000.

The Trustees have also received during the year the bequest, mentioned in our last report, of \$5,000 from the late Mrs. Maria Cary.

Last Autumn the Library building had a narrow escape from a serious conflagration, caused by the upsetting of a lighted lamp, and this hastened the change, which the Directors at that time had under consideration, of restoring lighting by gas, which had only been abandoned for oil under the pressure of absolute financial necessity. This change has been very satisfactory to our members, but adds about \$1,000 a year to our running expenses; that is, it takes \$20,000 of subscription, if invested at five per cent. on bond and mortgage, to pay the cost of substituting gas for oil.

Of the subscription, as reported by the Treasurer of the Trustees, there was paid in previous to the 1st March, 1883.....	\$75,425
Received since.....	4,150
Subscriptions not yet paid, but all considered good	5,850
	<hr/>
Total to date.....	\$85,425

This having been a year of transition the Treasurer's report does not afford the exact data to figure on in calculating precisely our financial status. The position of the Library in future may be stated as follows:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

From annual members, estimating an increase of 10 per cent..	\$12,000
Classes and miscellaneous.....	400
Income from Trustees—	
Gross rentals.....	\$6,190
Less charges, say	590
	<hr/>
	5,600
Income from bond and mortgage and other investments, \$16,000 at 5 per cent.....	<hr/>
	800
	<hr/>
	6,400
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$18,800

To do our work adequately, our expenses will be—

Salaries.....	\$9,000
Periodicals and newspapers.....	1,500
Binding.....	900
Gas	1,800
Fuel.....	600
Water.....	100
Maintenance of building and furniture.....	800
Janitor and cleaning.....	1,500
Insurance	500
Maintaining branches	1,200
Stationery, postage, etc.....	450
Bulletins, advertising and miscellaneous.....	450
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$18,800

None of these estimates are exaggerated, and if we cannot otherwise obtain money for the purchase of books, we must save \$1,500, or perhaps \$2,000, by doing with one less library attendant, by cutting down the expenditure for periodicals and newspapers, and by giving up the branches, all of which will be at the sacrifice of efficiency and utility.

We have got to face the fact that the running expenses of an institution like ours are necessarily heavy. We have a large building to light and warm, to keep clean and in repair. The wear and tear of floors, furniture and books is incessant, the number of people who use the Library ranging from 500 to 1,200 daily. We have an exacting body of members, and to satisfy them we must have courteous and intelligent employees. We are sure that our salary list is as low as possible consistent with giving satisfaction to our constituency.

In order to satisfy the pressing demands that are made upon us we must invest annually in books from \$5,000 to \$8,000, that is to say, *we need the income of at least \$100,000 more than we now have. If it should prove impossible to raise so large a sum at present, an absolute donation of \$40,000 or \$50,000, to be expended, principal and interest, in books, would enable us to do what is necessary for the next ten years.* What charitable investment can one make that promises so large a return of usefulness as this?

What we ask for is a modest sum in comparison with the income that kindred institutions enjoy in other cities. The Astor Library represents a total investment of \$1,400,000 on the part of the Astor family, and yet last year a donation of \$16,000 from one of the family was necessary to enable them to buy what books they needed. The Boston Public Library spends altogether about \$125,000 a year. The population of Boston is less than ours, and it has the Athenæum and a number of other libraries beside. Yet on Monday last their Board of Aldermen voted to erect a new library building, for which they appropriated the sum of \$450,000. Scarcely a week passes that we do not read in the papers of some large donation or bequest for library purposes.

To show the deficiencies of our city in library facilities, we give herewith a comparative table showing the number of volumes contained in the public libraries of all kinds in twelve cities, as compared with the population. The figures

are taken from the article on Libraries in the recent volume of the Encyclopædia Britannica, and the population from the census of 1880 :

	Volumes.	Population.
New York.....	704,000	1,206,000
Washington	691,000	147,000
Boston.....	638,000	363,000
Philadelphia.....	338,000	847,000
Cambridge	259,000	53,000
Cincinnati	168,000	255,000
Baltimore	137,000	332,000
New Haven	125,000	63,000
Worcester	125,000	58,000
Princeton.....	112,000	4,000
St. Louis.....	108,000	350,000
Brooklyn	96,000	567,000

In total number of volumes Brooklyn ranks twelfth, but in percentage of volumes to population, if all the Northern cities were included, Brooklyn would stand very near the bottom of the list. It has been said that the libraries of a city should contain as many volumes as it does inhabitants, and many a New England town largely exceeds this ratio.

In the detail of our work during the past year favorable progress may be reported.

The circulation during the library year ending 31st December, 1882, has been, as compared with the previous year :

	1881.	1882.
First quarter.....	27,141	27,828
Second quarter.....	24,366	24,053
Third quarter.....	16,839	17,871
Fourth quarter.....	23,964	25,542
Total for the year.....	92,310	95,294

These figures show a gain for the year of 2,984 volumes in circulation over that of the preceding year, the rate of increase showing a gain toward the end of the year, which has been continued since. The largest number of volumes put in circulation on any one day was 675, on January 14 ; the smallest 145, on August 2. We may fairly claim that the quality of the books circulated by us is equal to that of any

library in the country, and in volume of circulation we are surpassed among subscription libraries by only two or three. We endeavor to keep the quality of fiction in the Library high class, and prefer to err on the side of excluding rather than admitting a doubtful book. We know of no better way to fight bad fiction than with good fiction, and we trust the influence of our institution may to some extent counter-balance the flood of cheap, sensational literature with which the news stands are deluged.

The circulation of books, however, is scarcely any more important a feature of our Library than the use of books in the Library for reference, estimated at 50,000 volumes for the year. There is a steady increase in the use thus made of the Library, largely on the part of teachers and classes, clergymen, journalists, and professional men generally, but there is room for much further development in this direction. Apparently a Library not only has to furnish the opportunity, but must also educate the public to improve the opportunities when furnished. Our set of United States Patents, which is open to the public free of charge, is frequently consulted by inventors and artisans.

2,977 volumes have been bound and 12,024 volumes have been covered during the year. During the ensuing year a considerable outlay will be necessary for binding.

The publication this month of Bulletin No. 17, embracing the book purchases of the last six months, will doubtless further stimulate our circulation and membership. Some delay was caused in the publication of this bulletin by the work involved in the preparation by Mr. Noyes of notes and comments on many of the books, which, however, adds materially to its value and usefulness. It is proposed, if the means of the Library will admit, to continue this work of annotation and comment in further bulletins. We are thus getting the material ready for the publication of a second volume of our catalogue, which will probably be required within the next five years.

The Librarian is always accessible to members who desire more information than the catalogue is able to give.

The additions to the Library have been in detail:

BOOKS.	Number of Volumes, 1881-82.	Additions, 1882-83.	Worn out and sold, 1882-83.	Net additions, 1882-83.	Total number of volumes, March 29, 1883.
History, Geography, Voyages and Travels	9,552	784	25	759	10,311
Biblical, Religious, and Ecclesias- tical Literature	4,383	289	.....	289	4,672
Science and Industrial Arts.....	4,849	409	2	407	5,256
Biography.....	5,113	385	5	380	5,493
Natural History	1,459	86	1	85	1,544
Fine Arts	1,742	593	.....	593	2,335
Collective Works, Encyclopædias, etc.....	1,485	82	5	77	1,562
Philosophy, Language, Education, etc.....	2,372	199	.....	199	2,571
Political, Social, and Economic Sciences.....	3,588	254	1	253	3,841
Poetry, the Drama, Essays, etc...	4,773	325	5	320	5,093
Fiction.....	13,405	832	126	706	14,111
Works in Foreign Languages, not elsewhere classified.....	2,029	7,010	1	7,009	9,038
Periodicals, bound volumes.....	5,920	105	.....	105	6,025
Miscellaneous and duplicates.....	2,939	2	.....	2	2,941
Total	63,609	11,355	171	11,184	74,793

RECAPITULATION.

Number of volumes reported last year.....	63,609
Additions, 1882-83.....	11,355
Deduct volumes worn out or sold, as above.....	171
	<hr/> 11,184
Total number of volumes now in Library.....	74,793

The collection of books continues to be made, as it has been from the beginning, on an encyclopædic plan, embracing all departments of thought and research, carefully avoiding all that is prized merely for sumptuousness or rarity. It is proposed to pay special attention in future purchases to scientific works, both theoretical and technical, especially those bearing on manufacturing industries already established in our city.

DONATIONS.

Three hundred and forty-eight volumes, three hundred and four pamphlets, and two hundred and forty-three numbers of serials have been donated to the Library during the past year. The publishers of the Brooklyn Daily *Eagle*, the Brooklyn *Union-Argus*, and the Brooklyn Daily *Times* have supplied the Library with complete bound volumes of their valuable journals. We are also indebted to the Hon. William E. Robinson, M. C., for some valuable public documents. A full list of donors, with the number of volumes donated, is subjoined.

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY, FROM APRIL 1, 1882, TO APRIL 1, 1883.

	Vols.	Pamphl.	Nos
Abbott (B. V.).....	7	I	
American Institute of Mining Engineers	I		
American Silk Association, New York City.....		I	
Ames (J. C.), <i>Sup't Public Documents</i> , Washington, D. C.		I	
Anonymous.....	I		
Astor Library, New York.....		I	
Barnard (Henry).....	I		
Batten (<i>Dr.</i> John M.), U. S. N.....	I		
Beard (Daniel C.)	I		
Bergen (Tunis G.).....	I		
Boston (City of). <i>Record Commissioner's Report</i>	8		
Boston (City of). <i>Public Library</i>		5	I
Bowdoin College.....		I	
Bowen (Clarence W.).....	I		
Bridgeport, Ct., <i>Public Library</i>		I	
Brockett (<i>Dr.</i> L. C.).....	3		
Brookline, Mass., <i>Public Library</i>		I	
Brooklyn (City of). <i>Board of Aldermen</i>	15		
Brooklyn (City of). <i>Board of Elections</i>	3	25	
Brooklyn (City of). <i>Police Department</i>		I	
Brooklyn Daily Eagle.....	2		
Brooklyn Daily Times.....	2		
Brooklyn Daily Union-Argus.....	2		
Brooklyn. <i>Home for Consumptives</i>		I	
Brooklyn. <i>Methodist Episcopal Church Society</i>		2	
Brooklyn. <i>Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</i> .		I	
Brown (J. S.).....	6		
Buffalo Young Men's Association.....		I	
Bullinger (E. W.).....			3
Chapin (<i>Hon.</i> Alfred C.).....	2		
Chicago Public Library.....		I	

	Vols. Pamphl. Nos.		
Cincinnati Public Library		3	3
Cincinnati. <i>Board of Education</i>	I		
Clarke (Robert) & Co. Cincinnati, Ohio		I	
Cobden Club, (London, England)	I		
Collet (S. D), London, England		30	
Connecticut. <i>State Board of Education</i>	I		
Cornell (<i>Hon.</i> Alonzo B.)	I		
Cornell University	I	I	2
Cummins (H. Y.)	17		
Dalton (J. G.)	3		
de Peyster (<i>Gen.</i> J. Watts)	I	5	2
De Puy (<i>Rev.</i> W. H.)	2		
Dewey (Chester P.)	8		
De Witt (Wm. C.)	I		
Dixwell (Geo. Basil)	2		
Donnell (E. J.)		5	
Douglass (J. W)		2	
Everett (Richard J.)	I		
Fleischman (S. L.)	I		
Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, Vt.		I	
Frothingham (Jas. H.)	3		
German Insurance Co., N. Y. City		I	
Gilbert (Frank)	I		
Haddon (Alex., <i>M. D.</i>)		I	
Hall (<i>Rev.</i> Chas. H.)		I	
Harlan (Caleb, <i>M. D.</i>)	I		
Harvard University		4	I
Holt (Henry) & Co., New York City	I		
Hyatt (Thaddeus)		I	
I. B. & W. R. R. Co.		I	
Ibeach (Franklin)	I		
Indianapolis, Ind. <i>Public Library</i>		I	
Italy. <i>Department of Agriculture</i>	I		
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md	I	9	2
Keese (William L.)		I	
Kings County, N. Y. <i>Department of Charities</i>		I	
Koehler (S. R.)		I	
Lenox Library, New York			6
Levi Parsons Library, Gloversville, N. Y	I	4	
Lindsley (David P.)	I		
Liverpool (England). <i>Free Public Library</i>		I	
Long Island Historical Society		I	
Low (<i>Hon.</i> Seth, Mayor of Brooklyn)	I	I	
McAllister (W. J.)		2	
Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me	5		
Manchester (England) Free Public Libraries		I	
Massachusetts State Library		I	

	Vols. Pamphl. Nos.	
Michigan (State of).....	I	
Miller (<i>Mrs.</i> Olive Thorne).....	I	
Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library.....	I	
Mitchell Library, Glasgow, Scotland.....		3
Moffat (John L., <i>M. D.</i>).....		I
National Board of Health.....	3	
New Jersey Historical Society.....	4	
New Jersey (State of).....	2	
New York Bible Society.....		I
" Evening Journal.....		I
" Historical Society.....	I	
" Produce Exchange.....	I	
" Mercantile Library Association.....		I
" (Gen. Soc. of Mechanics and Tradesmen of)...		2
" (University of).....	14	
" (Young Men's Christian Association of)		I
" Bar Association.....		I
" State library.....	6	
Norcross (J. E.).....	I	
Onderdonk (Henry, Jr.).....	16	5
Palmer (Wm. Pitt).....	I	
Peabody Institute, Baltimore, Md.....		I
Peabody Museum, Cambridge, Mass.....		I
Peoria (Ill.) Public Library.....		I
Philadelphia (Bank of North America of).....	I	
" (Library Co. of).....		I
" (Mercantile Library of).....		I
" (New Church Association of).....		I
" (Women's Medical College of)		I
Phillips (Barnet).....	I	
Poole (William F.).....		I
Pratt (Charles) & Co.....	I	
Pray (Joseph M.).....	5	
Providence Public Library.....		3
Putnam (Harrington).....	I	I
Redwood Library and Athenæum, Newport, R. I		I
Religious Society of Friends (N. Y.).....	2	
Robinson (S.).....	I	
Robinson (<i>Hon.</i> W. E., <i>M. C.</i>).....	8	2
Ropes (Ripley).....		3I
St. Louis (City of) Pub. Society Library Bulletins.....		I
St. Louis (Mercantile Library Association of).....		I
San Francisco (Cal.) <i>Free Public Library</i>	I	
" (Odd Fellows Library Association of)		I
Schetter (H.).....	5	
Schirmer (G.).....	I	8
Sedarté (N. M., <i>pseud.</i>).....	2	

	Vols. Pamphl. Nos.		
Shearman (Thomas G.).....		I	
Sheridan (<i>Lieut.-Gen.</i> Phil. H.).....	I		
Silliman (Augustus E.).....	I		
Smithsonian Institute.....	4	15	
Society for Ruptured and Crippled, N. Y. City		I	
Somers (J. B.).....		3	
Springfield (Mass.) City Library Association.....		I	
Stillwell (William H.).....		I	
Strong (H. A.).....		I	
Thwing (E. P.).....	I		
Titcomb (Sarah E.).....	I		
Toner (<i>Dr.</i> J. M.).....	I		
Trustees James Lick Trust, Mt. Hamilton, Cal.....		I	
Union League Club, New York.....		I	
United States <i>Bureau of Education</i>		34	
“ <i>Bureau of Statistics</i>		3	
“ <i>Chief of Engineers</i>	I		
“ <i>Census Bureau</i>	I		
“ <i>Commissioner of Agriculture</i>	5	7	
“ <i>Department of Engineers</i>	3		
“ <i>Department of the Interior</i>	69	23	40
“ <i>Department of the Navy</i>	3	2	
“ <i>Department of State</i>	I	2	
“ <i>Department of the Treasury</i>	3	I	
“ <i>Department of War</i>	8	12	
“ <i>Mint</i>	I		
“ <i>Patent Office</i>	I	2	38
“ <i>Surgeon General's Office</i>	I		
Université Laval, Quebec, Ontario.....		I	
Vanderbilt (<i>Mrs.</i> Gertrude L.).....	I		
Warwick (<i>Mrs.</i> C.).....	2		11
Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.....		I	
White (Wm. Augustus).....	41	24	99
Wilkin (Robert J.).....	I		
Williams (William).....	I		
Woodward (William S.).....	I		
Woolworth (C. C.).....	2		
Worcester (Mass). <i>Free Public Library</i>		I	
Yale College.....		3	
Totals.....	351	304	243

The increased attendance in the Reading Room during the past year has been the subject of general remark, and desiring to increase their usefulness, we have enlarged the list of periodicals and newspapers materially, giving special atten-

tion to those published in large business centres, South and West, and to professional and technological journals. We aim also to have on our file every periodical published in this city.

We ought to add further to our list of foreign periodicals, since they are not only much read when new, but when bound are of permanent value for reference. A very large proportion of the literature of the time is published in periodicals; and indexes like Poole's, which show just where to look for articles bearing on any given subject, greatly enhance the value of this department of the Library. This Library stands twelfth in the extent of its contributions to the third edition, recently published, of Mr. Poole's Index; the whole number of co-operating libraries having been fifty.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the past year 1,013 new annual members have been enrolled, and 858 subscriptions have been discontinued, leaving the membership of the Library at the close of the year, as nearly as can be known, as follows:

Annual members (who have paid to April 1, 1883) at \$5.....	1,984
Extra annual subscriptions of \$3.....	237
Permanent members by payment of \$500.....	285
Life members by payment of \$100, and by conversion of permanent memberships.....	562
Original life members at \$50.....	39
Total membership.....	3,107

This shows a gain of 160 annual members, 51 permanent members and 41 life members, with one less original life member at \$50. We record the gain in annual members with especial satisfaction, as it shows a substantial development in the work of the Library, beside bringing with it a positive increase to its income. Classes were organized in French under Professor L. J. Simonin; in Spanish, under Mme. Ramirez; in Phonography, under Professor T. J. Ellinwood; in German, Professor Deghuee, and in Elocution,

under Professor W. M. Jelliffe. The net receipts from all the classes for the year have been \$310.08.

BRANCHES.

The local deliveries at drug stores in various parts of the city have been continued. It is believed that the increased membership nearly covers the expense of delivery. This system meets a public want, and if it were more widely known would certainly be more widely used. The Library cannot afford to pay much for advertising, and must look to its friends for an increase of membership.

The Library belonging to the Eastern District Library Association was sold at auction last summer. Through the kind generosity of an ever liberal friend of this Library \$1,500 was given for the specific purpose of buying books at the sale and establishing a branch reading room in the Eastern District. The directors of the Eastern District Library Association met our advances in a friendly spirit, and agreed to pay the rent of a suitable room. A considerable number of books were purchased, and rooms were taken at 36 Fourth street, which were opened to the public in October last.

Although, as yet, the enterprise is not on a self-sustaining basis, yet it is gaining in membership steadily. What is needed there is an addition of about 1,000 volumes of the best recent literature. Now that Mr. Noyes has completed his bulletin, the selection of these books will be the next thing taken in hand.

In this connection the Board of Directors wish to extend their special thanks to Mr. George H. Fisher, for the intelligent and untiring assistance he has rendered in the establishment of library facilities in the Eastern District. We trust that the branch thus planted may take root and flourish perennially.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

During the year a beginning has been made in the formation of a musical library, which has been found a useful

feature by members. The works of the leading classical composers were purchased, and also some four and eight-hand music for the piano. The expense to the Library has not been large, and the use by members has been very considerable. It certainly seems legitimate for us to recognize the fact that an important part of recent development in civilization and culture has found expression in music.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

The Board of Directors have considered that quite a saving in expense and trouble would result if the dues of annual members were made payable semi-annually instead of quarterly. The labor of addressing several thousand bills of only \$1.25 each, and afterward collecting, receipting for and crediting, is very considerable. The change, if approved by the members, will take effect on the 1st of next September, and hereafter the financial year of the Board of Directors will be identical with that of the Board of Trustees, both ending on the 1st of March.

HOW TO ENLARGE THE SPHERE OF THE LIBRARY.

One more subject calls for remark at this time. His Honor the Mayor of our city, in a lecture delivered at the Adelphi Academy on the 11th of January last, after paying a compliment to our institution in general, expressed the wish that it might some day become a free public library, and further said: "The Trustees of the Library own to-day property of so much value that, in consenting to throw it open to the public use, on the condition that the public should support it, they might not unreasonably or unsuccessfully maintain the right to control the destinies of the Library in its management."

Nothing could be more satisfactory to those who have contributed to make the Brooklyn Library what it is than to see the sphere of its usefulness enlarged and extended, and the suggestion of the Mayor is entirely in harmony with

the general purpose that has so far prevailed. Few indeed could be found to deny the great educational and elevating influence such an institution, rightly conducted, would exert upon the community, but any change that is made should be on a financial basis so strong as to insure success. The work that the Library is already doing is too valuable to imperil it for any doubtful experiment. As has already been stated, the Library is at present in need of a further yearly income of \$5,000 to \$8,000 to enable it to do its present work properly. When that is obtained, we shall doubtless be found ready and desirous to consider the further enlargement of our field of labor.

Respectfully submitted, for the Board of Directors,

W. A. WHITE,

President.

